Use of grainland for non-farm purpose

478. **SHRI JAGMOHAN:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how much grainland has been lost to non—farm uses during the period 1982-1992;

(b) how much grainland has been converted into high value speciality crops; and

(c) what measures are being taken to ensure that the area of grainland per person is not reduced and the poor are not subjected to further deprivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): ta) There is only marginal decline of 0.8 million hectares in the total cultivable area which declined from 185.2 million hectares in 1981-82 to 184.4 million hectares in 1991-92.

(b) The area under foodgrains declined from 129.7 million hectares in 1981-82 to 128.0 million hectares in 1990.91, as per Land Use Statistics, showing a decline of about 1.7 million hectares during this period. During the same period, there is an increase of around **1.38** million hectares of areas under lrgh value crops of fruits and vegetables which increased from 5.08 million hectares to 6.46 million hectares.

(c) The land being fixed, the per capita grain land j_s likely to be reduced over the years with the increase in population. However, the programmes are being implemented to increase the cultivated area through reclamation of cul-turable wasteland and reducing the fallow land by extending the irrigation facilities. Further, various crop production oriented programmes are being implemented to increase the productivity pel unit of area to maximise the return from the available land resources.

Butter Oil

479. SHRI BHUPINDER SLNGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRI-CULTURE *be* pleased to state:

(a) whether Goveianient hav, the import oi cutter oil by Naional Dairy Development Board at concessional import duty;

(b) the rates at which the butter oil will be imported and the con. allowed on such import;

(c) whether butter oil and powe? milk is at the same time allowed to be exported so as to facilitate Indian dairy farmers to compete in the intern market; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor*:*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The rate of import of butter oil depends upon the quantity available and the international prices prevailing at the time of import. The rate at present ranges from. US$ 1600 to 1770 per MT. The concession granted by tiie Gover ment to the National Dairy Develop ment Board for import is reduction in custom duty from 40 per cent to 20 per cent.

(c) and (d) There "is no question ot exporting butter oil as me same is not manufactured in India. However, milk powder is permitted for export through APEDA.

Desertification of Land

480. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: WUl the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 40 per cent of land in the country suffers from desertification;

(b) what i^s the percentage of land that has been treated so far by various measures; and